

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1739–S1832.

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 842–856, and S. Res. 108–110. **Pages S1780–81**

Measures Passed:

Boys Town Centennial Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 301, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S1830–31

Attacks Carried Out by Russian-Backed Rebels: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 72, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of defensive lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1831–32**

Capito (for Lee) Amendment No. 598, to urge the President to prioritize and expedite the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, consistent with United States national interests and policies. **Page S1831**

Capito (for Leahy) Amendment No. 599, to amend the title. **Page S1832**

Internet of Things: Senate agreed to S. Res. 110, expressing the sense of the Senate about a strategy for the Internet of Things to promote economic growth and consumer empowerment. **Page S1832**

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1740–74**

Adopted:

By 94 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 79), Sanders/Wyden Amendment No. 386, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect Medicaid beneficiaries from benefit cuts. **Pages S1744–48, S1750–51**

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. 80), Portman/Bennet Amendment No. 349, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve health outcomes and lower the costs of caring for medically complex children in Medicaid. **Pages S1744, S1751**

Sanders Amendment No. 474, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect and strengthen the Department of Veterans Affairs, hire more health care professionals for the Department, and ensure quality and timely access to health care for all veterans. **Pages S1765–66**

Ayotte Amendment No. 400, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to maintain and enhance access, choice, and accountability in veterans care through the Veterans Choice Card program under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. **Pages S1764, S1766**

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 81), Fischer Amendment No. 409, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information. **Pages S1757–58, S1766**

By 75 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. 83), Enzi (for Hatch) Amendment No. 498, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to legislation submitted to Congress by President Obama to protect and strengthen Social Security. **Pages S1765, S1767**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 78), Sanders/Wyden Modified Amendment No. 323, to create millions of middle class jobs by investing in our nation's infrastructure paid for by raising revenue through closing loopholes in the corporate and international tax system. **Pages S1740–44, S1748–50**

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 82), Mikulski Amendment No. 362, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to amending the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to allow for punitive damages, limit the any

factor “other than sex” exception, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information. **Pages S1751–57, S1766–67**

By 1 yeas to 98 nays (Vote No. 85), Cornyn Amendment No. 357, to raise taxes and spending by enacting President Obama’s fiscal year 2016 budget. **Pages S1758–62, S1768**

Pending:

Cotton Amendment No. 481, to establish a deficit-neutral fund relating to supporting Israel. **Pages S1764–65**

Enzi (for Kirk) Amendment No. 545, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement. **Pages S1768–69**

Rounds/Inhofe Amendment No. 412, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for engaging in closed-door settlement agreements that ignore impacted States and counties. **Pages S1769–70**

Rubio Modified Amendment No. 423, to increase new budget authority fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050). **Pages S1770–73**

Daines Amendment No. 388, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the designation of national monuments. **Pages S1773–74**

Daines Amendment No. 389, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget. **Page S1774**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 84), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive all applicable budgetary discipline pursuant to Section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with respect to Whitehouse (for Wyden) Amendment No. 471, to create a point of order against legislation that would cut benefits, raise the retirement age, or privatize Social Security. Subsequently, the point of order that the amendment was in violation of section 305(b)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, was sustained, and the amendment was ruled out of order. **Pages S1762–64, S1767–68**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the concurrent resolution at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, with 18 hours of debate time remaining; that the time until 10:30 a.m., be equally divided and controlled by the two managers, or

designees; that Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair at 10:30 a.m., to allow for the Joint Meeting of Congress; and that all time during the recess count against the remaining debate time on the concurrent resolution. **Page S1832**

Joint Meeting—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. **Page S1832**

Messages from the House: **Page S1779**

Measures Referred: **Page S1779**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1779–80**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1780**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1781–83**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1783–86**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1778–79**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1786–S1830**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1830**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1830**

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—85) **Pages S1750–51, S1766–68**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:51 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1832.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine waters of the United States, focusing on stakeholder perspectives on the impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rule, after receiving testimony from Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, Little Rock; Donald R. van der Vaart, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary, Raleigh; Susan Metzger, Kansas Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary, Manhattan; Josh Baldi, Washington Department of Ecology Regional Director, Bellevue; Lynn Padgett, Ouray County Commissioner, Montrose, Colorado, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; T. Furman Brodie, Charles Ingram Lumber, Inc.,